

Gayle E. Smith began her appointment as Coordinator for Global COVID Response and Health Security at the U.S. Department of State on April 5, 2021. She is currently on leave from the ONE Campaign, where she has served as the President and CEO since March 2017.

Prior to the ONE Campaign, Smith served as the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development where she led a staff of more than 10,000 professionals working to end extreme poverty, foster sustained and inclusive economic growth, and promote resilient, democratic societies all over the world.

Before becoming the Administrator of USAID, Smith served in the Obama Administration as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Development and Democracy at the National Security Council, where she helped manage the U.S. Government's responses to more than 15 major humanitarian crises and worked to strengthen democratic institutions around the world.

Smith was previously a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress, Co-Founder of the ENOUGH Project, and Co-Founder of the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network. During the Clinton Administration, she served as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for African Affairs at the National Security Council, and as Senior Advisor to the Administrator and Chief of Staff of USAID.

Prior to her U.S. Government service, Smith worked as a journalist in Africa for over 20 years, where she covered military, economic, and political affairs for the BBC, Associated Press, Reuters, Boston Globe, Christian Science Monitor, Toronto Globe & Mail, London Observer, and Financial Times. She won the World Journalism Award from the World Affairs Council and the World Hunger Year Award in 1991, and in 1991 she won the National Security Council's Samuel Nelson Drew Award for Distinguished Contribution in Pursuit of Global Peace.

Smith is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and has served on the boards of Oxfam America, the Africa America Institute, ASSET, USA for Africa, and the National Security Network. She has also consulted for a range of NGOs, foundations, and governmental organizations including UNICEF, the World Bank, Dutch Interchurch Aid, Norwegian Church Relief, and the Canadian Council for International Cooperation.

She also served on the policy and advisory boards of DATA, the Acumen Fund, and the Global Fairness Initiative, and was the Working Ground Chair on Global Poverty for the Clinton Global Initiative from 2005 to 2007.

Smith received a B.A. from the University of Colorado at Boulder.